



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/709,210	04/21/2004	Clark A. Levsen	34379	3209
23589	7590	03/03/2006		
HOVEY WILLIAMS LLP 2405 GRAND BLVD., SUITE 400 KANSAS CITY, MO 64108			EXAMINER PARSLEY, DAVID J	
			ART UNIT 3643	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 03/03/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/709,210

Applicant(s)

LEVSEN, CLARK A.

Examiner

David J. Parsley

Art Unit

3643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11-16, 19-26 and 28-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11-16, 19-26 and 28-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9-22-04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Detailed Action**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

1. Claims 33-55 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 12-29-05.

Applicant's election of Group I in the reply filed on 12-29-05 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

### ***Specification***

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it begins with an implied statement and it is over 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

***Drawings***

3. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the serrated and knurled refining surfaces as seen in claim 7 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

Art Unit: 3643

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No.

3,958,304 to Barbee.

Referring to claim 1, Barbee discloses a tripe cleaning apparatus adapted to wash and refine a quantity of tripe, the apparatus comprising, a vessel – at 12, defining an inner chamber – see figure 1, for retaining a quantity of tripe – at 76, and a rotatable member – at 24, housed within the chamber – see figure 1, and adapted to rotate in a first direction and a second direction – see column 2 lines 59-68, wherein rotating in the first direction causes the tripe to be washed – see column 2 lines 59-68. Barbee does not disclose that movement in the second direction causes the tripe to be scarified. However, this is an intended use/functional limitation in an apparatus claim and it is deemed that the device of Barbee is capable of scarifying the tripe during movement in the second direction in that during the movement in the second direction the tripe – at 76 is caused to contact the spiral baffles – at 70,72 – see column 2 lines 59-68 and column 3 lines 1-5 and as seen in figures 1 and 5, the baffles – at 70,72 have thin edges extending the entire length of the baffles which contact the tripe and during contact with the tripe are capable of scratching/scraping the tripe and thus scarifying the tripe.

Referring to claim 2, Barbee discloses a motor – at 42, connected to the rotatable member – at 24, and operable to rotate the member in the first direction and in the second direction – see for example column 2 lines 59-68.

Referring to claim 3, Barbee discloses a switch connected to the motor (inherent) and having a first state and a second state, wherein the switch causes the motor to rotate the member in the first direction when in the first state and causes the motor to rotate the member in the second direction when in the second state – see for example column 2 lines 59-68 where the motor is controlled to change the direction of rotation of the device based on the state of the tripe being cleaned. Further, it is inherent that the motor since it is electrically powered is controlled by a switch device such as that shown in U.S. Patent No. 3,112,518 to Doggett et al. which discloses a switch – at 158,160,182,184,206,208,210,212 for controlling the operation of the drive motor – at 134 as seen in figure 10 and column 5 lines 51-75 and column 6 lines 1-18.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4-6, 8 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barbee as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of CH Patent No. 597763.

Referring to claim 4, Barbee does not disclose the rotatable member is a substantially circular disc. The Swiss patent does disclose the rotatable member is a substantially circular disc – see at 3,3',31 in figure 1. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Barbee and add the rotatable member being a circular disc of the Swiss

Art Unit: 3643

patent, so as to allow for the tripe to be quickly cleaned with the contaminants quickly removed from the interior of the device.

Referring to claim 5, Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent further discloses the disc presents an upper surface and a plurality of disc projections connected to the disc adjacent the upper surface – at 70,72 as seen in figure 5 of Barbee where the projections – at 70,72 project from the disc shaped bottom of the member – at 24, the projections adapted to wash the tripe when the disc is rotated in the first direction – see for example column 2 lines 59-68. Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent does not disclose that movement in the second direction causes the tripe to be scarified. However, this is an intended use/functional limitation in an apparatus claim and it is deemed that the device of Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent is capable of scarifying the tripe during movement in the second direction in that during the movement in the second direction the tripe – at 76 is caused to contact the spiral baffles – at 70,72 – see column 2 lines 59-68 and column 3 lines 1-5 and as seen in figures 1 and 5, the baffles – at 70,72 have thin edges extending the entire length of the baffles which contact the tripe and during contact with the tripe are capable of scratching/scraping the tripe and thus scarifying the tripe.

Referring to claim 6, Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent further discloses each of the disc projections – at 70,72, presenting radially oriented longitudinal axis – see figure 1, a washing surface – at either side of items 70,72, and a refining surface – at the other side of items 70,72, opposite the washing surface – see figures 1 and 5, the washing surface adapted to deflect the tripe when the disc is rotated in the first direction – see for example figures 1 and 5, column 2 lines 59-68 and column 3 lines 1-5, the refining surface adapted to deflect the tripe when the disc is rotated in the second direction – see for example figures 1 and 5 and column 2 lines 59-68 and

Art Unit: 3643

column 3 lines 1-5, where each side of items 70,72 can be used to contact the tripe when rotating in either the first or second directions. Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent does not disclose that movement in the second direction causes the tripe to be scarified. However, this is an intended use/functional limitation in an apparatus claim and it is deemed that the device of Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent is capable of scarifying the tripe during movement in the second direction in that during the movement in the second direction the tripe – at 76 is caused to contact the spiral baffles – at 70,72 – see column 2 lines 59-68 and column 3 lines 1-5 and as seen in figures 1 and 5, the baffles – at 70,72 have thin edges extending the entire length of the baffles which contact the tripe and during contact with the tripe are capable of scratching/scraping the tripe and thus scarifying the tripe.

Referring to claim 8, Barbee as modified by the Swiss reference further discloses the washing and refining surfaces each presenting a slope from the upper surface of the disc to the longitudinal axis – see – at 70,72 in figure 5 of Barbee.

Referring to claim 13, Barbee as modified by the Swiss reference further discloses the vessel – at 12 of Barbee, presenting an inner vessel wall – at the interior of 12 as seen in figures 1 and 5, that at least partially defines the inner chamber – at 24 – see figure 1 of Barbee, and a baffle – at 70 or 72, fixedly connected to the vessel adjacent the inner vessel wall and readily protruding within the chamber – see figure 5 of Barbee.

Referring to claim 14, Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent further discloses the baffle – at 70 or 72 of Barbee, presenting a longitudinal axis, a washing baffle surface – at either side of item 70 or 72 and a refining baffle surface – at the other side of item 70 or 72, the washing baffle surface adapted to deflect tripe when the tripe is rotated in the first direction – see figures 1 and



Art Unit: 3643

5, column 2 lines 59-68 and column 3 lines 1-5 of Barbee, the refining baffle surface adapted to deflect the tripe when the tripe is rotated in the second direction – see for example figures 1 and 5, column 2 lines 59-68 and column 3 lines 1-5 of Barbee. Barbee as modified by the Swiss reference does not disclose that movement in the second direction causes the tripe to be scarified. However, this is an intended use/functional limitation in an apparatus claim and it is deemed that the device of Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent is capable of scarifying the tripe during movement in the second direction in that during the movement in the second direction the tripe – at 76 is caused to contact the spiral baffles – at 70,72 – see column 2 lines 59-68 and column 3 lines 1-5 and as seen in figures 1 and 5, the baffles – at 70,72 have thin edges extending the entire length of the baffles which contact the tripe and during contact with the tripe are capable of scratching/scraping the tripe and thus scarifying the tripe.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,508,699 to Santoriello et al. Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent does not disclose the refining surface is either serrated, knurled or gritted. Santoriello et al. does disclose the refining surface – at 22,24, is serrated – see for example figures 6 and 8. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent and add the refining surface being serrated of the Santoriello et al. reference, so as to allow for any unwanted contaminants on the treated carcasses to be removed before further processing.

Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,168,511 to Amstrup.

Referring to claim 11, Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent does not disclose the disc presents a plurality of drain holes. Amstrup does disclose the disc – at 18,22, presents a plurality of drain holes – at 20 – see figures 5-6. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent and add the disc with drain holes of Amstrup, so as to allow for the liquid used to clean the meat to be quickly removed from the device after use.

Referring to claim 12, Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent and Amstrup further discloses the projections – proximate 19 and 29 of Amstrup, defining a plurality of projection openings – at 19,29, the disc projection openings axially aligned with the drain holes – at 20, so as to present a plurality of through holes – see figures 5-6 of Amstrup.

Claims 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,508,699 to Santoriello et al.

Referring to claim 15, Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent does not disclose the refining baffle surface is either serrated, knurled or gritted. Santoriello et al. does disclose the refining baffle surface – at 22,24, is serrated – see for example figures 6 and 8. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent and add the refining baffle surface being serrated of the Santoriello

Art Unit: 3643

et al. reference, so as to allow for any unwanted contaminants on the treated carcasses to be removed before further processing.

Referring to claim 16, Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent does not disclose the refining baffle surface presenting a plurality of baffle projections. Santoriello et al. does disclose the refining baffle surface – at 24, has a plurality of projections – at 22 – see for example figures 6 and 8. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Barbee as modified by the Swiss patent and add the baffle surface having a plurality of projections of the Santoriello et al. reference, so as to allow for any unwanted contaminants on the treated carcasses to be removed before further processing.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barbee as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,823,414 to Seal et al. Barbee does not disclose the vessel including a washing fluid inlet pipe nozzle, a refining fluid inlet pipe nozzle and a cold water inlet pipe nozzle, each of the nozzles being configured to connect the chamber with an external fluid source. Seal et al. does disclose the vessel – at 10, including a washing fluid inlet pipe nozzle – at 45 or 46, a refining fluid inlet pipe nozzle – at 45 or 46 and a cold water inlet pipe nozzle – at 45,46, each of the nozzles being configured to connect the chamber with an external fluid source (not shown but connected to the piping shown in figures 1 and 3-4 connected to the nozzles – at 45-46. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of Barbee and add the fluid nozzles of Seal et al., so as to allow for the meat in the vessel to be cleaned of any contaminants prior to further processing.

Claims 20-25 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Swiss patent in view of Barbee.

Referring to claim 20, the Swiss patent discloses a tripe cleaning apparatus adapted to wash and refine a quantity of tripe, the apparatus comprising, a vessel – at 1 with a wall – at 4,4',41,41', defining an inner chamber – at the interior of item 1 as seen in figure 1, wherein the chamber is adapted to contain the quantity of tripe – see figure 1, a disc – at 3,3', housed within the chamber – see figure 1, and rotatable in a first direction – see at 26,27 in figure 1, the disc including an upper surface – see figure 1, and a plurality of disc projections – at 31, projecting from the upper surface of the disc – see figure 1, each of the disc projections presenting opposed washing and refining surfaces – see at either side of the central axis of the disc – at 3,3' in figure 1, the washing surfaces being substantially smooth – see the wires at 31 at 3 in figure 1, and the refining surfaces being abrasive – see at 31 at 3' in figure 1, where the wires at 31 are adapted to abrade the tripe during rotation of the device, and a motor – (not shown but connected at 26,27,28) connected to the disc – see figure 1, for selectively rotating the disc in the first direction – see for example figures 1-2. The Swiss patent does not disclose the device is rotatable in a second direction via the motor. Barbee does disclose a tripe cleaning device having a rotating member – a 24 with a disc shaped bottom wall – see proximate 16 in figure 1, which is rotatable in first and second directions via the motor – at 42 – see for example figure 1 and column 2 lines 59-68. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of the Swiss patent and add the motor rotating the device in a first and second direction of Barbee, so as to allow for the meat to be properly cleaned of any contaminants prior to further processing.

Referring to claim 21, the Swiss patent as modified by Barbee further discloses a plurality of baffles – at 70,72 of Barbee, connected to an inner surface of the wall of the vessel –

Art Unit: 3643

at 24 – see figure 5 of Barbee, and protruding inwardly from the wall – see figure 5 of Barbee, each of the baffles including a baffle washing surface – see at either side of items 70 or 72 and a baffle refining surface – at the other side of items 70 or 72 – see for example figures 1 and 5 of Barbee.

Referring to claim 22, the Swiss patent as modified by Barbee further discloses each projection washing surface – see at 70,72 in figure 5 of Barbee, is adapted to deflect the tripe – at 76, against the inner wall of the vessel – at 24, when the device/disc is rotated in the first direction so that the tripe contacts at least one of the baffle washing surfaces – see for example figures 1 and 5, column 2 lines 59-68 and column 3 lines 1-5 of Barbee.

Referring to claim 23, the Swiss patent as modified by Barbee further discloses each baffle washing surface – at 70,72, is adapted to deflect the tripe toward a center of the disc – see figures 1 and 5, and column 2 lines 59-68 of Barbee.

Referring to claim 24, the Swiss patent as modified by Barbee further discloses each refining surface – at any portion of items 70,72 of Barbee, is adapted to deflect the tripe against the inner wall of the vessel – at 24 of Barbee, when the disc is rotated in the second direction so that the tripe contacts at least one of the baffle refining surfaces – see for example figures 1 and 5 and column 2 lines 59-68 of Barbee. The Swiss patent as modified by Barbee does not disclose the refining surface is adapted to scarify the tripe. However, this is an intended use/functional limitation in an apparatus claim and it is deemed that the device of the Swiss patent as modified by Barbee is capable of scarifying the tripe during movement in the second direction in that during the movement in the second direction the tripe – at 76 is caused to contact the spiral baffles – at 70,72 – see column 2 lines 59-68 and column 3 lines 1-5 and as seen in figures 1 and

Art Unit: 3643

5, the baffles – at 70,72 have thin edges extending the entire length of the baffles which contact the tripe and during contact with the tripe are capable of scratching/scraping the tripe and thus scarifying the tripe.

Referring to claim 25, the Swiss patent as modified by Barbee further discloses each baffle refining surface – at any of the surfaces of items 70,72, is adapted to deflect the tripe toward a center of the device/disc – see figures 1 and 5 and column 2 lines 59-68 of Barbee. The Swiss patent as modified by Barbee does not disclose the refining surface is adapted to scarify the tripe. However, this is an intended use/functional limitation in an apparatus claim and it is deemed that the device of the Swiss patent as modified by Barbee is capable of scarifying the tripe during movement in the second direction in that during the movement in the second direction the tripe – at 76 is caused to contact the spiral baffles – at 70,72 – see column 2 lines 59-68 and column 3 lines 1-5 and as seen in figures 1 and 5, the baffles – at 70,72 have thin edges extending the entire length of the baffles which contact the tripe and during contact with the tripe are capable of scratching/scraping the tripe and thus scarifying the tripe.

Referring to claim 28, The Swiss patent as modified by Barbee discloses a switch connected to the motor (inherent) and having a first state and a second state, wherein the switch causes the motor to rotate the member in the first direction when in the first state and causes the motor to rotate the member in the second direction when in the second state – see for example column 2 lines 59-68 of Barbee where the motor is controlled to change the direction of rotation of the device based on the state of the tripe being cleaned. Further, it is inherent that the motor since it is electrically powered is controlled by a switch device such as that shown in U.S. Patent No. 3,112,518 to Doggett et al. which discloses a switch – at 158,160,182,184,206,208,210,212

for controlling the operation of the drive motor – at 134 as seen in figure 10 and column 5 lines 51-75 and column 6 lines 1-18.

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Swiss patent as modified by Barbee as applied to claim 20 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,508,699 to Santoriello et al. The Swiss patent as modified by Barbee does not disclose the refining surface is either serrated, knurled or gritted. Santoriello et al. does disclose the refining surface – at 22,24, is serrated – see for example figures 6 and 8. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of The Swiss patent as modified by Barbee and add the refining surface being serrated of the Santoriello et al. reference, so as to allow for any unwanted contaminants on the treated carcasses to be removed before further processing.

Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Swiss patent as modified by Barbee as applied to claim 20 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,823,414 to Seal et al. The Swiss patent as modified by Barbee does not disclose the vessel including a washing fluid inlet pipe nozzle, a refining fluid inlet pipe nozzle and a cold water inlet pipe nozzle, each of the nozzles being configured to connect the chamber with an external fluid source. Seal et al. does disclose the vessel – at 10, including a washing fluid inlet pipe nozzle – at 45 or 46, a refining fluid inlet pipe nozzle – at 45 or 46 and a cold water inlet pipe nozzle – at 45,46, each of the nozzles being configured to connect the chamber with an external fluid source (not shown but connected to the piping shown in figures 1 and 3-4 connected to the nozzles – at 45-46. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to take the device of the Swiss patent as modified by Barbee and add the fluid nozzles of Seal et al.,

Art Unit: 3643

so as to allow for the meat in the vessel to be cleaned of any contaminants prior to further processing.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

6. Claims 30-32 are allowed. The combination of the limitations, "...the washing surface sloping upward from the upper surface of the disc to the axis along the clockwise direction, the gritted refining surface longitudinally opposite the washing surface and sloping upward from the upper surface of the disc to the axis along the counter-clockwise direction; a motor connected to the disc for selectively rotating the disc in the clockwise direction and in the counter-clockwise direction; a switch connected to the motor and switchable between a first position, wherein the motor rotates the disc in the clockwise direction, and a second position, wherein the motor rotates the disc in the counter-clockwise direction; a plurality of baffles coupled to the wall of the vessel, spaced above the disc, and radially protruding inwardly from the wall, each of said baffles including a substantially smooth concave washing surface sloping away from the inner wall along the counter-clockwise direction, and a gritted concave refining surface longitudinally opposite the washing surface sloping away from the wall along the clockwise direction..." in claim 30 are not found in the prior art of record.

*Conclusion*



Art Unit: 3643

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to carcass cleaning devices in general:

U.S. Pat. No. 989,072 to Solomon – shows rotatable device with disc

U.S. Pat. No. 1,475,929 to Buckham – shows rotatable carcass washing device

U.S. Pat. No. 1,578,167 to Nagele et al. – shows rotatable carcass washing device

U.S. Pat. No. 2,119,311 to Biedermann – shows rotatable tripe cleaning device

U.S. Pat. No. 2,213,453 to Schmidt – shows rotatable carcass cleaning device

U.S. Pat. No. 3,846,869 to Barbee – shows tripe-cleaning device

U.S. Pat. No. 4,293,980 to Ward – shows carcass-cleaning device

U.S. Pat. No. 4,376,325 to Boas et al. – shows carcass-cleaning device

U.S. Pat. No. 4,710,999 to Brunner et al. – shows carcass-cleaning device

U.S. Pat. No. 6,083,096 to Carrillo – shows carcass-cleaning device

U.S. Pat. No. 6,105,490 to Horn et al. – shows processor with reversible motor

U.S. Pat. No. 6,315,654 to Levsen – shows tripe-cleaning device

U.S. Pat. No. 6,578,468 to Horn – shows processor with reversible motor

U.S. Pat. No. 6,685,550 to Houtz et al. – shows carcass-cleaning device

CH Pat. No. 604537 – shows tripe-cleaning device

FR Pat. No. 2601851 – shows carcass-cleaning device


Art Unit: 3643

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David J. Parsley whose telephone number is (571) 272-6890.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Poon can be reached on (571) 272-6891. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
David Parsley  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3643